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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 26, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 21 totaled an estimated 19.4 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 12 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 215.9 billion ton-miles, 0.9 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 21 totaled 463,089 cars, 0.2 percent below 1980, but 3.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 3.9 percent in the East and 0.7 percent in the South, but down 3.6 percent in the West. Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings soared to 135,341, 21.0 percent over 1980 and the highest single week since June 20, 1957. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended March 14 totaled 34,401 cars, down 2.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 62,259 trailers and/or containers, down 2.5 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 11 weeks of the year was 345,133 cars, 6.2 percent lower than last year, and 624,205 trailers and/or containers, down 6.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/21/81:

	Loadings in Week ended March 21, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	
Grain	27,396	D	4,122	13.1	I	632	2.4
Other farm products	3,376	D	363	9.7	D	485	12.6
Metallic ores	27,837	I	1,376	5.2	D	1,309	4.5
Coal	135,341	I	23,462	21.0	I	14,690	12.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,337	D	1,913	13.4	D	690	5.3
Nonmetallic minerals	13,501	D	1,679	11.1	I	133	1.0
Grain mill products	15,682	D	1,943	11.0	I	280	1.8
Food and kindred products	16,462	D	2,800	14.5	I	286	1.8
Primary forest products	19,592	D	455	2.3	D	99	0.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,009	D	1,388	13.4	I	439	5.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,649	D	1,649	7.4	I	454	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	30,399	I	314	1.0	I	1,088	3.7
Petroleum products	5,019	D	1,091	17.9	D	282	5.3
Stone, clay and glass products	14,911	D	641	4.1	I	215	1.5
Coke	6,545	D	756	10.4	D	2	0.0
Metals and products	17,527	D	1,468	7.7	I	679	4.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,866	D	1,665	8.1	I	209	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	13,801	D	226	1.6	D	691	4.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,246	D	1,048	8.5	I	86	0.8
All other carloads	43,322	D	2,993	6.5	D	497	1.1
LCL traffic	271	D	76	21.9	D	9	3.2
Total Cars Loaded	463,089	D	1,124	0.2	I	15,127	3.4
Corresponding week of 1980	464,213						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (12 weeks)	5,167,865	5,279,081	D	2.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
11 Weeks cumulative	196.5	194.4	I	1.1
Week ended March 21	19.4	19.5	D	0.1
12 Weeks cumulative	215.9	213.9	I	0.9

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